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1972/01/31

~~MEMORANDUM~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1057

Private Talks
URGENT INFORMATION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

January 31, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR:

MR. KISSINGER

FROM:

JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE *JH*

SUBJECT:

North Vietnamese Delegation Releases
Private Talks Documents

At a Monday press conference, the North Vietnamese delegation handed out a "communique" and several documents related to your private talks. The three principal purposes of this DRV exercise appears to be to shift the onus for the ending of the private talks, to denounce what they claim to be a violation of secrecy and to dissolve any impression we may have conveyed in characterizing the "9-Points" that they were offering to speak for the Pathet Lao or the FUNK.

The "communique" pointed out:

-- The "nine point" proposal of June 26 fully conforms to the PRG's "7 point" proposal.

-- The DRV's "invariable position" on Laos and Cambodia (i. e., let the Indochinese people settle their own affairs) conforms to "the spirit of the joint declaration of the 1970 Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference."

-- It was the U.S. which cancelled the November 20, 1971 meeting because Xuan Thuy was prepared to meet with you; moreover, at some of the private meetings only Xuan Thuy conferred with you.

-- In deciding to make public the substance of the private meeting, the Nixon Administration aimed at:

-- "Deceiving public opinion in the U.S. and in the world;

-- "Serving Mr. Nixon's political objectives in this election year;

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-- "Allowing him to pursue 'Vietnamization' of the war..."

-- So as not to permit "the U.S. party to mislead public opinion," the DRV delegation "deems it necessary to make public the following documents:"

1. The DRV "nine points" of June 26, 1971 and the PRG "seven points" of July 1, 1971.
2. The U.S. "eight points" of October 11, 1971 and the U.S. "eight points" of January 25, 1972.
3. The U.S. messages of October 11, 1971; November 3, 1971; and November 19, 1971. The DRV messages of October 25, 1971; and November 17, 1971.

The texts of these documents seem to be identical to those in our files except for the following minor changes in the text of the "nine points" handed us by the North Vietnamese on June 26 (at Tab A):

Point 4: "...to the people of the whole..." (instead of "peace"). This is consistent with the language in past proposals. The use of "peace" in the original version was probably a mistake.

Point 6: "...non-interference in each other's internal affairs..." (instead of "each other's affairs").

Concluding sentence: The phrase "and are closely related to one another" has been dropped.

We first obtained the released text of the "nine points" from an intercepted VNA message in French to Hanoi. Discrepancies in the translation of this message initially led us to believe there were greater changes in the released "nine points" than later turned out to be the case.

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NORTH VIETNAMESE NINE-POINT PROPOSAL

June 26, 1971

1. The withdrawal of the totality of U.S. forces and those of foreign countries in the U.S. camp from South Vietnam and other Indochinese countries should be completed within 1971.
2. The release of all military men and civilians captured in the war should be carried out in parallel and completed at the same time as the troop withdrawals mentioned in Point 1.
3. In South Vietnam the U.S. should stop supporting Thieu/Ky/Khiem so that there may be set up in Saigon a new Administration standing for peace, independence, neutrality, and democracy. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam will enter into talks with that Administration to settle the internal affairs of South Vietnam and to achieve national concord.
4. The United States Government must bear full responsibility for the damages caused by the United States to the peace of the whole of Vietnam. The government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam demand from the U.S. Government reparations for the damage caused by the U.S. in the two zones of Vietnam.
5. The U.S. should respect the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina and those of 1962 on Laos. It should stop its aggression and intervention in the Indochinese countries and let their people settle by themselves their own affairs.
6. The problems existing among the Indochinese countries should be settled by the Indochinese parties on the basis of mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in each other's affairs. As far as it is concerned, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is prepared to join in resolving such problems.
7. All the parties should achieve a cease-fire after the signing of the agreements on the above mentioned problems.
8. There should be an international supervision.
9. There should be an international guarantee for the fundamental national rights of the Indochinese peoples, the neutrality of South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and lasting peace in this region.

The above points form an integrated whole and are closely related to one another.

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SUBJECT: North Vietnamese Delegation releases private talks documents

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